

To: Gartner, Lois[Gartner.Loïs@epa.gov]; Wells, Suzanne[Wells.Suzanne@epa.gov]; Stalcup, Dana[Stalcup.Dana@epa.gov]
From: Dreyfus, Melissa G.
Sent: Thur 8/13/2015 5:43:50 PM
Subject: Fw: Anticipated Fact Sheet Qs/As for Superfund AND Media Inquiries Re: Superfund

Please see my suggested responses to this request....do you agree?

From: Thomas, Latosha on behalf of EOC Public Information
Sent: Thursday, August 13, 2015 1:28 PM
To: EOC Technical Specialist
Subject: Anticipated Fact Sheet Qs/As for Superfund AND Media Inquiries Re: Superfund

Here are some questions related to Superfund. One has a response that needs to be reviewed for accuracy and the others need a response.

Q/A for Fact Sheet

1) Is it true that EPA had been advocating that the Gold King Mine and the Upper Animas River be listed as a Superfund site and that local communities have resisted that designation? Would such a designation help prevent these types of incidents from occurring.

This is essentially the same question as #2, which OSRTI2) requested be answered by Region 8.

EPA takes full responsibility for the release that occurred on August 5. Superfund brings a unique set of resources, tools and authorities to address large scale and challenging environmental cleanup sites. The water quality challenges posed by abandoned mines can be complex and often benefit from a comprehensive approach to investigation, planning and cleanup that the SF process entails.

CNN

2)s it true that the EPA had wanted for years to designate the area a Superfund site but received much opposition from community leaders? Can the EPA designate a site a Superfund area without support from a community?

OSRTI requested first part of the question be answered by R8. OSRTI working on

the second part.

3)I'm also wondering if the type of mining pollution that was created by this particular mine is common with all mines.

OSRTI working on this question

Other Outlets

4)I'm wondering about the implications of the spill for the EPA under CERCLA. Will EPA be liable for the spill under CERCLA, or how does CERCLA come into play in this scenario?

OSRTI suggests this question is sent to R8/OGC.

5)Does the EPA have any estimate on total number of abandoned mines? (in the western US and/or nationwide, or whatever is available)

There are currently 133 mining and mineral processing sites on the Superfund National Priorities List (NPL). This site information is available at: <http://www.epa.gov/aml/aml/site/npl.htm>. The Federal Land Management Agencies (e.g., Bureau of Land Management, Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service and the Forest Service) have jurisdiction for characterizing and cleaning up mine sites on federal lands.

6)Had Gold King Mine been designated a Superfund site, what would have been the chances of the spill happening?

Same as #1 and #2, please send to R8.